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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1904.

One Halfpenny

DEFEAT OF THE DUKE.

Liberal Unionist Association
Listens to Mr. Chamberlain.

The Duke of Devonshire's recent differences with the Liberal Unionist Association led to a gathering of that body's council yesterday, convened by Mr. Chamberlain, to discuss the question whether they should be wound up as a political organisation or should continue in existence without the Duke of Devonshire—their former head.

The meeting was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, and its representative character may be gauged from the fact that no fewer than eighty-six members of the council attended out of a total of 123.

Among the faithful eighty-six were the Liberal Unionist members of the Government—Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Chancellor of the Exchequer), Lord Lansdowne (Foreign Secretary), Mr. Arnold-Forster (Secretary for War), and the Earl of Selborne (Admiralty).

The Duke of Devonshire's adherents had resolved to ignore the meeting, which they contended could only be properly convened by Lord Avebury, the chairman of the council.

No wonder that one of Mr. Chamberlain's earliest remarks was that the constitution of the council was, in his view, much too aristocratic.

The meeting, he began, would be asked to decide the difference between the Duke and himself, as shown by the recent correspondence.

The issue was extremely simple, and was explained by the Duke's letter of October 23, in which he said there was no advantage in continuing the existence of the association.

Only Two Who Disagreed.

He (Mr. Chamberlain) was entirely unable to share that view. The danger from which the Council was formed to guard against still existed. He saw no reason why they should not remain an association of Liberals, who might disagree on some subjects, but who were determined to resist the disruption of the Empire. (Cheers.) If the association wished to commit suicide they should make beyond the province of anyone else to make a decision on the point.

He hoped the Duke would still reconsider his decision as to resignation. (Hear, hear.)

It was understood that certain members contemplated testing the legality of the meeting. That would not be fair, but such action would be futile.

Every loyal Liberal Unionist member was bound to support the policy of the Government, or he could no longer be considered a Unionist. Any Unionist had the right to express his opinion on any subject within the four corners of the policy of the Party. The only question to be asked a candidate was whether he was prepared to follow the Balfour. He did not see why a new test should be created.

In conclusion, Mr. Chamberlain formally moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the existence and activity of the Central Liberal Unionist organisation should be maintained." (Cheers.)

An amendment in favour of dissolving the association was lost, only three voting for it, and Mr. Chamberlain's resolution was then carried, amid cheering, with two dissentients.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL GETS HIS WAY.



The Prime Minister has agreed that Mr. Winston Churchill should receive daily the Ministerial Whip. This favour was granted by Mr. Balfour at Mr. Churchill's own request. He is said to have pouted till he got it. (See page 3.)

SIEGE OF LUCKNOW RECALLED.

The death took place yesterday at Beckenham of Lady Inglis, who was present at the siege of Lucknow. The second daughter of the first Lord Chelmsford, she was born in 1833. She was the widow of the famous defender of the Residency at Lucknow, Sir J. E. W. Inglis.

In addition to undergoing the terrors of the siege Lady Inglis was shipwrecked on the voyage home to England.

BEST WRESTLER OF ALL.

At the Palace Theatre the wrestling craze has now been cleverly met by a nightly match between one of Spessard's bears and an American athlete. The style is naturally "catch-as-catch-can," with no particular rules, as the animal formulates his own as the game proceeds. A bear is a natural, born wrestler, and it is doubtful if any man could fairly shoulder-pin a fair-sized bear to the ground.

SIR HENRY IRVING WILL APPEAR AT CHICAGO.

Some three thousand theatrical employées have been out of work at Chicago ever since the lamentable disaster at the Iroquois Theatre. Cable advices now state that McVicker's theatre, which re-opened on Monday, is giving the first performance anywhere in the city since the disaster. Sir Henry Irving is announced to appear at the Illinois Theatre next week.



Winston started pouting his lip when a boy, as this picture with his mother shows.

TO-DAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE.

Our special weather forecast for to-day is: Westerly or northerly breezes; some cold showers (sleet or snow in the north), then fall temporarily, with frost inland at night.

Lighting-up time, 5.53 p.m.

Sea Passages: English Channel, rather rough to moderate; North Sea, rough; Irish Channel, smooth.

According to telegrams from St. Petersburg Admiral Alexieff, Viceroy of the East, has been empowered to open hostilities against Japan if circumstances warrant, and it is expected that a prompt declaration of war will follow Japan's refusal of the terms contained in the next Russian Note.-(Page 2.)

We understand on excellent authority that Mr. Chamberlain will shortly leave for the Continent for a two months' holiday.-(Page 2.)

In the House of Commons last evening the debate chiefly concerned Irish affairs.-(Page 2.)

The death occurred last evening of Mr. Benjamin Pickard, Liberal M.P. for the Normanton Division of Yorkshire.-(Page 11.)

The Liberal Unionist Association has thrown in its lot with Mr. Chamberlain, and at yesterday's meeting the ex-Colonial Secretary said he hoped that the Duke of Devonshire would still reconsider his decision as to resignation.-(Page 1.)

His Majesty the King to-night attends the great Ice Carnival at Hengler's in aid of the Union Jack Club, and will entertain a party of sixty friends at supper.-(Page 3.)

The Prime Minister, Mr. A. J. Balfour, is still absent from the House of Commons. He is not expected back until Monday at the earliest.-(Page 5.)

M. Waldeck-Rousseau, ex-Premier of France, is seriously ill, and is to undergo an operation. His portrait is given.-(Page 5.)

Extraordinary scenes are reported in connection with the floods now general throughout the country. At Windsor Bridge last night the river was nearly 4ft. above high-water mark, and was rising rapidly.-(Page 11.)

Miss Masson, the young lady who disappeared from a village near Harpenden, where she had been staying, has returned to her friends.-(Page 6.)

It is announced that Sir John Willoughby, famous for his connection with the Jameson raid, is to marry Miss Florence Hayward, an American actress.-(Page 3.)

Mr. G. L. Jessop will be able to play in all county matches during the coming season. The announcement has given much satisfaction in Gloucestershire cricket circles.-(Page 11.)

At Walsall last evening two children were found in a cottage with their throats cut. By them lay their mother, Ann Taylor, in a critical condition from a wound in the throat.-(Page 3.)

As a wedding gift to Prince Alice of Albany, the burgesses of Windsor are giving her a beautiful half-hoop diamond bracelet.-(Page 11.)

H.M.S. New Zealand, the largest battleship ever built at Portsmouth, is to be launched to-day by the Countess Oonow. Interesting particulars and illustrations appear.-(Page 5.)

Miss Elizabeth Parkinson, a new American soprano, sang before the King at the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society concert last night. Her portrait and career appear on page 9.

The claim made by Lord Cowley for expenses of three counsel, in the Harpott divorce case, was yesterday upheld by the Court of Appeal.-(Page 4.)

South London is concerned over the mysterious disappearance of a young girl, whose mother yesterday attended before the Southwark magistrate and told a remarkable story.-(Page 4.)

A case that came before the Divorce Court yesterday was notable for the fact that the wife settled £1,400 on her husband, a doctor, in order that he might no longer treat certain cases.-(Page 4.)

At the inquest respecting the death of a child, named Laurence, found with its throat cut at Ranelagh-road, Paddington, the jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against the mother.-(Page 4.)

"The Love Birds," Mr. George Grossmith's new musical comedy, will be produced at the Savoy Theatre on Saturday week. Interesting particulars are given.-(Page 8.)

The coroner's jury which inquired into the circumstances attending the death of Colour-Sergeant Cooke, 3rd Grenadiers, found shot at Wellington Barracks, yesterday returned a verdict of Suicide while temporarily insane.-(Page 4.)

In the Bankruptcy Court, at a meeting of creditors under the receiving order made against Frank Wigram, the debtor admits having lost £5,000 by betting.-(Page 4.)

A criminal now before the Assizes of the Seine, Paris, is said to have committed two burglaries every night for the past ten years.-(Page 4.)

Acceptances for the spring handicaps were published yesterday.-(Page 10.)

Very bad weather interfered with the comfort of racegoers at Newmarket. Patlander won the chief event of the day.-(Page 10.)

To-day's Arrangements.

Princess Christian gives her patronage to a Café Chantant in the Victoria Hotel, Hart Hotel, Windsor, 3.30-6.30.

Mr. Walter Long, M.P., attends the Annual Supper of the Baywater Habitation of the Primrose League, Paddington.

Banquet of the Royal Navy Club: Hôtel Métropole.

Grand Skating Fête and Ice Carnival at the National Skating Palace in aid of the Union Jack Club.

The Lord Chief Justice presides and the Archbishop of Canterbury delivers an address, at the Annual Social Meeting of the Royal Courts of Justice Temperance Society.

Racing: Newmarket; Malton.

Athletics: At Cambridge, St John's College.

STILL BENT UPON HOME RULE.

Mr. Redmond Reminds the Liberals that the Irish Demand is Unchanged.

The first speech in the House of Commons yesterday had many merits as an oratorical effort, but its most shining quality was surely its remarkable appropriateness as a corollary to the Liberal Unionist meeting which was summoned by Mr. Chamberlain, and which is reported on page 1.

The speech was made by Mr. John Redmond, who is, perhaps, in some respects the most skillful speaker the House possesses. No one excels him in the command of the fluent sentence. If he has not always the best word at his disposal, he has always some other word which serves nearly as well. The occasional hesitancy of Mr. Balfour never marks the speeches of Mr. Redmond.

Mr. Morley has a most fastidious taste in words, and will often keep his audience waiting while he finds some epithet which suits his exact literary conscience, and even Mr. Chamberlain, like Homer, has been known to nod. But Mr. Redmond never panics. His fluency meets with no obstructive rocks or embarrassing shallows, and the effect of his speeches is enhanced by the dignity of his bearing and a rightness of gesture which would satisfy even the professional teacher of elocution, who is known to be a stickler for these things.

Mr. Redmond had moved the adjournment on Tuesday night, and consequently had the Speaker's eye when preliminary business was disposed of and the debate on the Address was adjourned. Surrounding him was the spirited Irish brigade which Mr. Redmond alone can direct with some show of authority. They were ready to punctuate the regular periods of their chief with the cheers or

lover's quarrel, and hard things might in such circumstances be said.

Mr. Redmond proved himself equal to the occasion. The critics of the drama at St. Stephen's found in his references to the late Liberal-Irish alliance a most piquant flavour.

The Liberals are already anticipating the sweets of office. So much elated have they been with the novel experience of electoral successes that already the battle seems won and the floor of the House half crossed. But the Irish spectre is left deliberately out of their account. Can they win or retain office without Irish support?

Mr. Redmond unpleasantly reminded them to-day that his Party wants Home Rule, and will be satisfied with nothing else. If this be so, what of the new alliance between Free Fooders who are Unionists and Free Traders who are Liberals? Will the Free Fooders give up their Unionism? Can the Liberals escape the Home Rule entanglement? These were the questions which Mr. Redmond started, and as yet the Liberals have no reply. But could a better justification be afforded than this reassertion of the demand for Home Rule of the decision to keep the Liberal Unionist organisation in being.

Mr. Wyndham's speech in reply was delivered with all the speaker's grace and charm of manner. To Home Rule he offered, of course, uncompromising hostility, and he disappointed his Irish audience with the important announcement that there is to be no Government measure of Irish University Education.

They must deal, said Mr. Wyndham, with the problems under their noses with the materials at

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S HOLIDAY.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has decided to take two months' holiday on the Continent. He will leave London on the 15th inst.

The right hon. gentleman has worked so hard during his fiscal campaign that a rest has become as necessary as it has been thoroughly well earned.

Asked by a friend yesterday what would happen to the operations of the Tariff Reform Commission in his absence, Mr. Chamberlain cheerfully replied: "Oh! I like to see younger men busy. They will get along first-rate, you may be sure."

KING AT A CONCERT

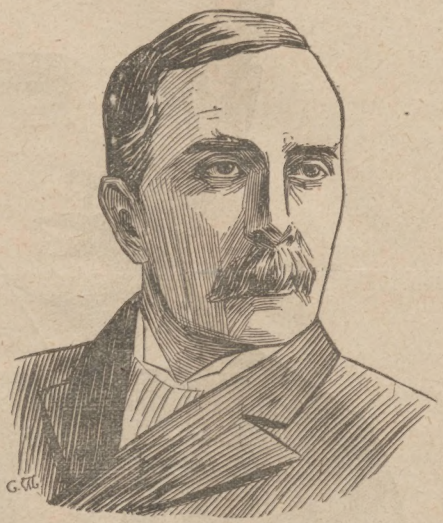
Listens With Pleasure to a New Soprano.

As was anticipated, the King honoured with his presence the concert given at Queen's Hall last night by the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society, at which the Prince of Wales took the chair.

The society is undoubtedly one of the finest amateur bands in the kingdom, and the way in which they played the opening overture, "Niobe's" of his Majesty, who applauded heartily. The other orchestral works performed were Tchaikovsky's "1812," and the King's favourite march, "Pomp and Circumstance," which was conducted by Dr. Elgar himself.

The soloists were all "stars." Madame Clara Butt sang an old favourite, "The Lost Chord," and sang duets with Mr. Kennerley Rumford, who accompanied with his solo songs by Clutsum and M. V. White. Herr Kreisler, the renowned Austrian

GIANT FINANCIAL FIGHT—JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER v. J. PIERPONT MORGAN.



Mr. John D. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil magnate, and the richest man in the world, has resigned his seat on the Board of the Steel Trust, to fight, it is said, against Mr. Morgan's interests.



Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, against whose rival interests Mr. Rockefeller is reported to have prepared an attack. If there is a fight the world will feel the effect.

the laughter which a Parliamentary leader looks for as his right, and on the opposite benches was a large audience of Unionists whose party bias does not prevent their enjoyment of the thoroughly good speech which Mr. Redmond can always supply. On the same side as the Irish were the Liberals, whose interest in the utterance was marked with some anxiety, for Irish and Liberals have had a

their hands, and he held out the hope to his own followers that Ireland would ultimately be won over to a happier mood if we persisted in the Unionist policy of assisting her material enrichment. The Nationalists, of course, scoffed at this anticipation, but Mr. Wyndham seemed confident enough. We heard of nothing all night save Irish grievances.

WAR IF THE VICEROY THINKS FIT.

The situation in the Far East has reached almost the climax of gravity. In St. Petersburg and Tokio the question of war is being debated with the tense anxiety that the gravity of the question demands.

The Tsar, according to Reuters, has now before him the report of the Special Council held to consider Russia's reply, which has not yet been presented, and may not be for some days. The Tsar is giving the matter his most earnest consideration, but that little hope is entertained may be judged from a telegram which states that Admiral Alexieff, the Viceroy of the Far East, has been given power to declare war and open hostilities as circumstances demand. Something like panic seems to have at last overtaken St. Petersburg.

The Russian squadron at Port Arthur is being

moved out of harbour by orders from St. Petersburg, and, according to a Reuter special message, nine thousand troops have left Port Arthur to be near the Korean frontier.

On the other hand, the most intense anxiety is being felt in Tokio. Reuters, in a special message, indicates that the prolonged tension has reached its climax. A solemn council, to attend which Marquis Ito, the Emperor's most trusted adviser, was summoned from his country seat during the night, has been held, and the conference lasted seven hours. Great importance is attached to it, for even the highest officials now make no concealment of their exasperation of Russia's tardiness.

"An unofficial despatch," adds the message, "says Russia has decided on war."

The depression on the St. Petersburg bourse is becoming daily more marked.—Reuter.

FOG WORSHIPPERS' MEETING.

It requires a bold man at a public gathering to deplore the absence of fogs, yet at the annual meeting of the Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Corporation the reference was most sympathetically received. It seems this company relies on the help of King Fog to pay its dividends, and the comparatively light days of last autumn have necessitated a reduction in the expected distribution to the shareholders.

The engineer to the company thinks the extraordinary rainfall must have washed the air clear, but confidently looks forward to happier—or darker—days.

For being drunk at his own mother's funeral at Husbands Bosworth an Olfen butcher named Edwin Neale has been fined £17s. 6d., including costs, at the Market Harborough Police Court.

DEATH OF LADY PULLAR.

Pullar's Perth Dyes are familiar to everyone. Sir Robert Pullar who owns the famous works has just lost his wife. Along with her husband she gave many munificent gifts to Perth, including a consumption sanatorium. Her life was devoted to works of benevolence and philanthropy.

LUCKY ESCAPE.

Several people had a marvellous escape yesterday in Aldersgate-street. During the dinner-hour, when the pavements are most crowded, a heavy piece of coping fell from the roof of the Portland Arms, yet no one was even injured. The debris greatly delayed the traffic.

Miss Liza Lehmann is about to write the music for a new farce entitled "Sergeant Brue," the book of which is by Mr. Owen Hall.

WHEN ITALIAN MEETS GREEK.

There have been wild scenes in Canes, Crete, the new soprano, sang with immense success, as from Donizetti's "Lucia di Lamermoor."

Her portrait and career appear on page 9.

The Greeks are an insignificant nation, and the majority of them are Albanians. The Greeks of to-day are a choleric, dishonest and inconsequent race, braggarts and liars, and knaves in their transactions.

Moral depravity and bad faith, coupled with haughtiness and a fatuous pride in pompous phrases, are ruining the country.

Vast excitement was caused by this pamphlet, the tocsin was sounded; a mass meeting was held and resolutions were passed in favour of the teacher's removal.

RUSSIA'S GRIP ON TURKESTAN.

Reuter's representative has had an interview with Mr. O. T. Crosby, the American traveller, who returned to England from Central Asia, Kashgar, in Eastern Turkestan, he says, Russia's prestige is absolutely paramount.

No one on the spot doubts Russia's absorption of Chinese Turkestan.

Mr. Crosby, however, is not of opinion that Russia has any designs on Tibet, and thinks British prestige about Russian influence at Lhasa are exaggerated.

BLENDED BUTTER BOUND TO SPREAD.

"Milk-blended butter is really water-blended butter," said Lord Onslow yesterday, to a resolution of the Federated Grocers' Association, in favour of the reintroduction of the Sale of Food Regulation Bill, which was withdrawn last session.

Lord Onslow promised the Bill would be brought forward again, but the details must not be given in charge of the measure. He said the question was of considerable importance not only to grocers and agriculturists, but also to the consumer, and that it was bound to spread if not checked by law.

YESTERDAY'S LAW AND POLICE.

"LORD DE MORLEY'S" BANK.

How a Publican Answered an Advertisement for a Manager, but Became a Messenger.

Lord de Morley is a mysterious nobleman whom a short while ago Mr. Justice Darling failed to find in Debrete.

All that could be ascertained for certain about him on that occasion was that he was in some way connected with the Royal British Bank, an institution that found itself at law in Mr. Justice Darling's Court.

Yesterday, this bank, that has such distinguished, yet elusive, connections, once more appeared in the High Court, this time before Mr. Justice Phillimore. It was plaintiff in an action against a former messenger employed by it, who, to his professed dismay, was, according to the bank, also a shareholder.

In the absence of Lord de Morley—the Judge made a polite reference to that interesting nobleman—the task of being chief witness for the bank devolved on Mr. Arthur Douglan Cochrane, its managing director.

The tale told by Mr. Cochrane, his counsel, and Mr. Scott was a very strange one. Mr. Scott was not brought up to be a bank messenger. He was originally a publican. One day he saw in the paper an advertisement for a manager for the Royal British Bank, the requirements being a knowledge of bookkeeping and an ability to invest £300.

Would Rather Not be Manager.

He at once applied for the position, but pointed out that, having no knowledge of banking, he would prefer the humbler post of messenger to that of manager. "Then," replied Mr. Cochrane, "the salary must be £100 a year, instead of £200 a year."

It was accordingly as messenger and not as manager that Mr. Scott entered the service of the bank.

He had previously paid down £25, signed two papers, and had also promised to produce £175 more.

Mr. Scott, who is a stout-built, middle-aged man, told the Court what happened to him in his new employment. He was not used for running messages at all. First of all he discovered that he was not a real messenger, and then worse happened. He found he was looked upon as a shareholder.

One of the papers that he had signed made him the unwilling possessor of twenty-five £50 shares in the Royal British Bank, on each of which £8 had been paid up, and £42 was to come if required.

Wished to Resign.

Immediately on making the discovery, Mr. Scott told Mr. Cochrane that he wished to resign his £100 a year, and go to America. The money that he had produced, he said, he regarded as a deposit guarantee of reliability, and he wanted it back. But to this Mr. Scott elected to add to his experience as a publican, a messenger, and a shareholder, those of an advocate. He conducted his case in person. So difficult did he find the task that Mr. Justice Phillimore took pity on him.

Why, asked the latter, did not Mr. Scott accept the offer of the bank and give it back his shares in return for his £25? Mr. Scott replied that he was making this arrangement. If he persisted in going on with the action he might have to pay the £175 claimed, with possibilities of further calls in the future.

Mr. Scott stood silent for a moment—and then persisted. When he went into the witness-box he did not deny that he had read the document, making him a messenger—and a shareholder—he signed. But he contended that he did not understand their purport.

Under these circumstances a verdict was found and entered for the Royal British Bank, but it was arranged that Mr. Scott should still have the opportunity of keeping his £175, by returning his Royal British Bank holding within seven days.

By refusing to take the Judge's advice he has lost the bank's costs, which he will have to pay.

AN M.P.'S FINANCES.

At the Newcastle-on-Tyne Bankruptcy Court yesterday, on a creditor's petition, a receiving order was made against John Lockie, shipowner, of Newcastle, and member of Parliament for the Devonport Division.

£5,000 LOST IN BETTING.

At the London Bankruptcy Court yesterday the first meeting of the creditors was held under the receiving order made against Frank Wigman, who was tried and acquitted at Bristol in connection with alleged betting frauds. There were four other defendants, who were convicted.

The debtor, late a shipbroker's clerk, attributes his failure to losses by betting, speculations on the Stock Exchange, and interest on borrowed money. He returns his gross liabilities at £11,477, with assets £18 8s. 6d.

He states that he has lost £5,000 by betting since 1900, and £3,500 by Stock Exchange speculations. The case was left with the Official Receiver.

HOPING FOR FORGIVENESS.

The following letter was found on the body of John Robert Welch, aged fifty-one, a labourer, of 161, Bird-in-the-Bush-road, Peckham, who committed suicide on Blackheath on Sunday afternoon by cutting his throat with a razor:

"Don't blame anyone for my rash act. I have tried hard not to do it, but nobody knows my feelings—horrible when they come over me. I hope my sister will forgive me and take care of my poor little child. I owe my sister 50s., which I can't help. I hope Bill will take the greenhouse and pay her. Don't blame my children. I hope you will forgive me."

HARTOPP. DIVORCE CASE.

Lord Cowley's Claim for the Expenses of Three Counsel Upheld by the Court of Appeal.

Lords Justices Vaughan Williams, Stirling, and Cozens-Hardy, sitting in the Court of Appeal yesterday, heard an appeal by Sir Charles Hartopp, the petitioner in the Hartopp v. Hartopp and Cowley divorce suit, from an order of Mr. Justice Barnes reviewing the taxing-master's certificate and allowing Lord Cowley the costs of three counsel.

Mr. Lawson Walton, K.C., who, with Mr. Barnard, appeared in support of the appeal, said that the petition of Sir Charles asked for a divorce by reason of the misconduct of Lady Hartopp with Lord Cowley. Both the respondent and co-respondent denied the charge, and Lady Hartopp filed a cross-petition charging her husband with misconduct with a Mrs. Sands. After a trial lasting fourteen days the jury found in favour of Lady Hartopp, on the husband's petition, and for Sir Charles on Lady Hartopp's petition. Both petitions were dismissed, with costs.

The costs were taxed, and the taxing master has refused to Lord Cowley the cost of three counsel, which to a material extent affected the bill, which was for a very large amount. The taxing master has taken the view that as there was only one issue to be tried so far as Lord Cowley was concerned three counsel were unnecessary.

It was argued, however, counsel continued, that Lord Cowley had undertaken the burden of proving Lady Hartopp's cross-petition, and that therefore an allowance for three counsel was not excessive. Mr. Justice Barnes took this view and overruled the disallowance. Lady Hartopp was represented by three counsel, so that there were six counsel engaged in a common case, and he (the learned counsel) contended that it was no justification for the extra outlay to say that the co-respondent assisted a cross-petition in which he had no concern.

Their Lordships thought that the matter was one for the discretion of the learned Judge. They saw no reason for interfering with the discretion of Mr. Justice Barnes, and accordingly dismissed the appeal with costs.

EXCEPTIONAL POISON CASE.

A peculiar poisoning case came before Mr. Troubridge, the Westminster Coroner, yesterday, when an inquest was held on the body of Agnes Charlotte Humphries, 33, a dressmaker, residing at 36, Paulton-square, Chelsea.

A sister said deceased was in the habit of taking sulphonal for sleeplessness. Her customary dose was twenty to forty grains. She had never known her to threaten suicide.

Dr. Swete Evans, of St. George's Hospital, stated that deceased died at that institution fifty-two hours after admission, on the 30th ult. She never recovered consciousness. Death was due to narcotic poisoning. Sulphonal taken in sufficient quantity would be a narcotic poison. It was quite possible that deceased had taken 200 grains of the drug. It was an extremely interesting case medically, and investigations were going on in connection with it at the hospital. He had never known a death from sulphonal before, although he was aware of persons having been under the effects of it for eight days and then having recovered.

The Coroner said he had never had a death from sulphonal poisoning before him prior to this. An open verdict was returned.

GUARDSMAN'S SUICIDE.

At the Westminster Coroner's Court yesterday Mr. Troubridge held an inquiry concerning the death of Benjamin Cooke, thirty-six, a colour-sergeant of the 3rd Grenadier Guards, who shot himself at Wellington Barracks on Saturday morning.

Miss Leverington, a lady's-maid, said she had been keeping company with the deceased since 1901. During the last fortnight he had been depressed, owing to neuralgia. On Sunday week he sent her a message by a special messenger, asking her to come to him at once. When she saw him he said, "I want you to stay with me, because I feel like putting my light out." On Tuesday evening he cried very much, and when he heard of Whitaker Wright's death he said, "I will take poison or shoot myself." Witness did not tell anyone of these threats.

The Coroner stated that he had been reported to him that there was a history of insanity in the deceased's family.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane."

THE BRIEF BAG.

Mr. John Troutbeck excused two men, at the Westminster City Coroner's Court yesterday, who had been summoned to serve on the jury, on the ground that they were too old. One man was over eighty years of age.

Ann Taylor, aged 30, a married woman, living in a low quarter in Walsall, murdered her two sons, aged two and four years, at five o'clock yesterday evening by cutting their throats. She also cut her own throat, and is not expected to recover.

Monday next has been fixed for the commencement of the hearing in the High Court of the action of Underwood v. Lloyds, which was brought to recover damages for an alleged libel in reference to the forage contracts during the South African war.

Yesterday morning a young man, aged about twenty-two, dressed in grey, was found shot in Richmond Park, to the north of White Lodge. A five-chambered revolver was found by his side. The only clue to his identity is "C. Durham" marked on his underclothing.

Commenting yesterday on the case of a window-cleaner who had been killed, Mr. Troutbeck, the Westminster Coroner, said that the existing regulations seemed to be more to protect passers-by from being hurt through the window-cleaners falling upon them.

IN FEAR OF A CONVICT.

Mother's Curious Story of her Daughter who has Mysteriously Disappeared.

At Southwark Police Court yesterday Mrs. Marian Collins, of 22, Cranston-street, Bermondsey, applied to Mr. Cecil Chapman for help in tracing her daughter, Marian, aged sixteen years. The magistrate referred the applicant to the Press.

Mrs. Collins stated that five years ago the girl, who was generally called "May," was enticed away and injured by a man, who was subsequently convicted at the Old Bailey and sentenced to six years' penal servitude. Since then she had been frequently sullen and despondent, and had given her parents considerable trouble.

She spent a year in a home, and obtained the character of being the worst girl there. After working six months at book-folding, she got another situation, but told such extraordinary tales that she had to be brought home. Recently she had shown great alarm at the possibility of the man who had kidnapped her being out of prison and finding her again.

Her daughter looked nineteen years old, and her face was so beautiful that whenever she walked abroad people stopped to gaze at her. On the morning of January 6 she disappeared, and the same evening her mother received a note, giving no address, as follows:

Dear Mum,—Do not worry over me. I got the sack from Webb's, and was afraid to face you.—From your loving, heartbroken Marian. P.S.—Remember me to Dad and others.

The missing girl had expressed a wish to go on the stage or to be a waitress in a coffee shop. She was 5ft. in height, and had blue eyes and dark brown hair, and was wearing a black dress and grey coat.

CRIMINAL WITH IDEAS.

A remarkable criminal is now before the assizes of the Seine writes our Paris correspondent.

For the last ten years Laurent Delarue has committed two burglaries every night, and it was only after the most lengthy inquiries that he, his wife, and his brother were arrested. An immense quantity of stolen property was found in their haunt.

Laurent Delarue was never caught red-handed. Many stories are told of his ingenuity.

On one occasion when surprised by the man whose house he was robbing, he explained his presence by saying that the place was on fire. "Run for the brigade," he exclaimed, and started off himself. A great noise, followed by the deceived householder. Another time he turned his attention to a private residence, but found he could not reach the window by which he intended entering. Seeing a lamp-lighter coming, Delarue exclaimed, "Here, give me a little help. I have forgotten my keys, and I don't want to wake up the old woman." The lamp-lighter obligingly offered his shoulders, and thus enabled the thief to enter.

During his confinement in the prison at Versailles Delarue hatched a plot to overpower the prison guard. He contrived a kind of lasso, with which he intended to liberate the other criminals, overpower the staff, and escape. This plot was only discovered by accident.

GAS CONSUMERS' HARDSHIP.

A number of Fulham residents—chiefly belonging to the working class—were summoned at the instance of the Gas Light and Coke Company for varying sums of money due in respect of the consumption of gas.

Mr. R. Humphreys, the company's solicitor, said the matter was a peculiar one. The defendant was in each case a consumer of gas by a penny in the slot meter, and the money claimed represented the deficiency which the meter showed on the visit of the inspector. The fact was that some time ago a man, falsely representing himself as one of the company's collectors, went round to the consumers, was admitted to the house in each case, and by means of a key opened the meter and tampered with the contents. The company had made every effort, without success, to find the thief. Under their agreement with the consumer the company were entitled to recover the deficiency, although the gas had really been paid for.

Mr. Rose (the magistrate): Supposing a genuine collector turns dishonest and steals the money in the meter, is the consumer responsible for the loss? Mr. Humphreys: Strictly, yes; but, of course, the company would not sue for it.

The magistrate observed that he should have thought the company could prevent fraud by providing their collectors with uniform or a badge or medal showing their authority, to which Mr. Humphreys replied that it would be very easy for a thief to imitate the uniform.

One of the defendants suggested that the company should be content with half the amount in each case.

Mr. Rose: I think that is a very proper suggestion. Both parties bear the loss in each case. Mr. Humphreys: I should prefer to take the full order in each case, and I shall be pleased to convey your remarks to the directors.

Mr. Rose: Very well, and I trust the company will see their way to making an equitable arrangement.

THE "SONS OF REST."

Frederick James Foley, twenty-one, a clerk, of no fixed abode, a respectable-looking fellow, was charged at West Ham yesterday with stealing an overcoat, an oil-painting, and a black leather bag, value £5 10s., the property of Frank Cecil Eble.

Detective Pitchley, who arrested the prisoner, said he was one of the body of loungers at Forest Gate who called themselves the S.O.R., the letters meaning the Sons of Rest. He was a well-educated fellow, but his parents would have nothing whatever to do with him.

The Magistrate sentenced the prisoner to three months' hard labour.

A WIFE'S OBJECTIONS.

Settled £1,400 on Her Husband, a Doctor, in Order that He Might no Longer Treat Certain Cases.

In the Divorce Division yesterday Mr. Justice Bucknill resumed the hearing of the case of *Neligan v. Neligan*.

It was a motion on the part of Mrs. Sarah Ellen Bucknill to set aside an agreement come to in a settlement which she brought some time ago for the separation of conjugal rights against her husband, Dr. Joseph William Neligan, in practice at Croydon.

The motion was before the Court some time ago, when it was stated that the parties were married on January 1, 1901, at which time the petitioner was a widow, and the respondent was a widower, each with children. Apparently at the first the couple had differences. At the time of the marriage Mrs. Neligan, who was possessed of £1,400 in means, made a settlement of £1,400 on her husband, in consideration of his giving up his medical practice, which she objected, and from which he had derived £400 a year.

The wife had previously brought two suits for restitution of conjugal rights, and the husband had returned to cohabitation. Her third suit was before the court on the 22nd January, 1903, when on the suggestion of the President, the parties came to an arrangement by which there was to be a temporary separation. The wife alleged that since cohabitation had resumed cohabitation on one occasion, and had agreed to a reconciliation. He, however, denied this, and alleged that his wife had caused him annoyance by taking a room facing his surgery and watching patients who came to him, which she denied in her affidavit.

Mr. Hume Williams, K.C., who appeared for the petitioner, now stated that his client was dissatisfied with the compromise entered into, and wished to have the case fought out.

Mrs. Neligan went into the box and emphasised her view that she did not acquiesce in the compromise. She only thought it was for a temporary separation. She said she was fond of her husband, and might have said that she could not live without him. She was "always willing to go and kiss her husband and make it up." Dr. Neligan was also cross-examined. He alleged that his wife treated him with cruelty, and that she had boxed his ears. (Laughter.) He was really afraid of her.

Mr. Justice Bucknill dismissed the motion, with costs against Mrs. Neligan.

A MOTHER'S CRIME.

The recent tragedy at Paddington came before the Court yesterday, when the Central London Coroner, Dr. Danford Thomas, held an inquiry into the death of Edith Lawrence, aged three years, the daughter of Charles Lawrence, a residential club assistant, of 51, Ranelagh-road, Paddington.

The father stated that a week ago last Saturday his wife gave birth to triplets, all of whom were doing well. His wife was straining in her room on Friday night. In the early hours of Saturday morning his wife insisted on him bringing her to the back room, asking him "Why he wanted to discard her (the deceased) for the babies."

About 9 a.m., while he was below stairs, he heard a scream, and rushing upstairs, found his wife lying on her throat with a razor. He saw her struggling to get up, and he saw her head had some difficulty in taking from her. On the deceased lying in a pool of blood. On going to the dead, he found that his little girl was dead. His wife was then taken to Paddington Infirmary.

Dr. Squires, medical officer of Paddington Infirmary, said the mother's condition was so mentally deranged at the time, and could not be treated with reason yet.

MYSTERY OF A CONSTABLE.

The mysterious disappearance of Richard Pugh, a young married constable of the Montgomeryshire police force, stationed at Llanidloes, has created considerable sensation.

Pugh was on duty in Llanidloes Town on Saturday evening and returned home again on Sunday morning immediately went out again.

On Sunday morning his absence was found on the side of the Sever half a mile away from the town. Every yard of the river bottom was searched, and the search has been extended to the deep pools, but without success.

DEATH STOOD IN THE WAY.

There was a pathetic note attaching to yesterday's proceedings in connection with the hearing of an action brought by the Denaby and Cadeby Mining Collieries to recover £150,000 damages from the Yorkshire Miners' Association for alleged conspiracy and unlawful obstruction to induce pitmen to workmen to break their contracts and to bring about the strike which occurred in 1902.

Mr. Rufus Isaacs, continuing his opening speech for the defence, said he had hoped to call in evidence of a man who had done so much for the miners. He referred to say was Mr. Pickard, M.P., whom he regretted to say was a most serious state of health.

While Mr. Isaacs was paying him this compliment, Mr. Pickard lay unconscious at his home, and expired, as stated elsewhere, later in the day.

VETERAN POLICE COURT CLERK.

Mr. Henry Humphreys, who has filled the post of clerk of the City Police Court for the past sixteen years, and who has retired yesterday, has his book, "Humphreys' Justice of the Peace," which has been a standard work of reference for upwards of forty years.

Judge Bacon, giving advice to a woman who had been brought before him, said, "Don't mind what your husband says. He is a man, and you are a woman. You are a clerk. Clerks and typewriters are far more plentiful. Teach him a trade."

OUR LATEST GREAT FIGHTING MACHINE.

The New Zealand, Representing the Most Powerful Type of Warship Afloat, to be Launched To-day.

The New Zealand, the latest addition to the British Navy, is to be launched at Portsmouth to-day. The ceremony will be performed by the Countess of Onslow, the wife of the President of the Board of Agriculture.

The New Zealand is the largest vessel ever launched at Portsmouth.

The class of battleships to which she belongs is officially known as the King Edward VII. Class, the first ship of the series launched being the King Edward VII., in August of last year.

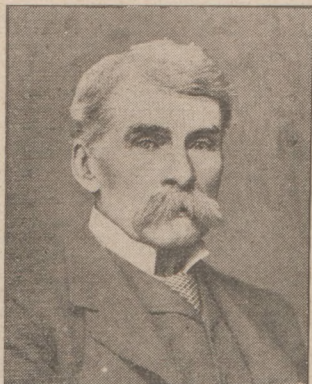
This class is the most powerful in the Navy, and is believed by naval experts to represent the most deadly fighting machine in the world.

The displacement of the New Zealand, with full equipment and full coal supply, is almost 18,000 tons. Her length is 425ft., and she is 78ft. in beam.

British naval architects have favoured short vessels since the days of the Spanish Armada, for they have always proved to be more handy for

out the most powerful projectiles at any range over three and a half miles.

The four twelve-inch guns which the New Zealand carries fire two projectiles a minute, each weighing 850lb., and able to pierce thirteen inches of the best steel armour or forty-two inches of iron. Her 9.2 guns will fire from two to three rounds per minute, according to the skill of her gun crews. The projectiles weigh 380lb., and will pierce 3ft. of iron. She has also ten 6-inch guns capable of

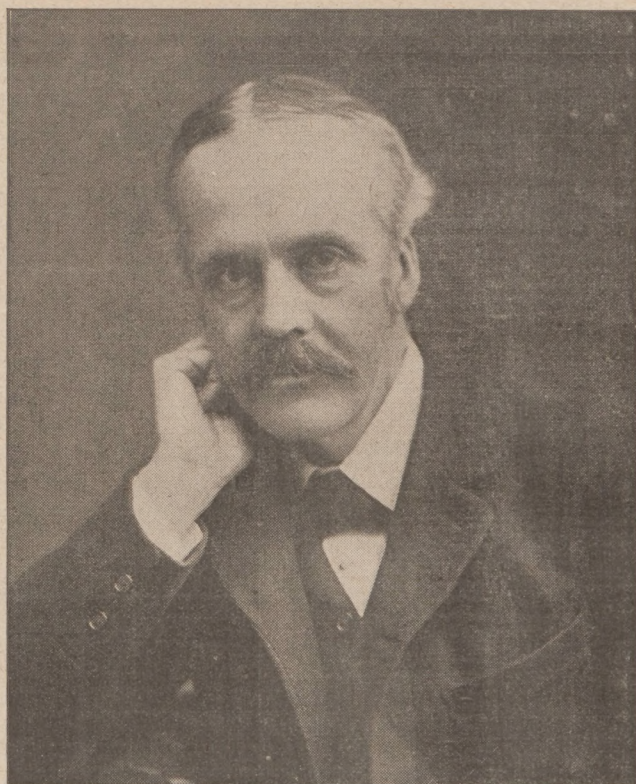


RIGHT HON. SIR EDWARD BRADDON. After a busy official life, he has just died at the age of seventy-five. He was the brother of Miss Braddon, the famous novelist, and served as a volunteer in the Crimea. After his retirement from Indian service, he went to Tasmania and, becoming a member of the Legislative Assembly, rose to the position of Premier.

(Photo by Elliott & Fry.)

firing a 100lb. projectile four or five times each minute; fourteen twelve-pounders, fourteen three-pounders, two machine guns, and two torpedo tubes. A 30ft. ram completes her offensive armament.

Only one class of warships carries an armament so heavy as this. The new American battleships will carry four 12-inch, eight 8-inch, and twelve 7-inch guns. It is an important fact, however, that



Mr. Balfour was absent from the House at the opening of Parliament owing to his old enemy, influenza, and is still kept away. He is not likely to be back again until Monday at the earliest.

(London Stereoscopic Co.)

THE FIRST M.P. IN THE HOUSE.



Mr. J. C. Macdonald, member for Rotherhithe, was the first M.P. to secure his seat in the new session. He was first last year also. He came at eleven o'clock on Monday, and was in his seat at one minute after midnight.

(Borden)

the power of our heavy guns has been increased recently without altering the measurements or weight.

The enormous attacking power of such a battleship as the New Zealand seems almost incredible. At a fair range her guns could riddle her own armour like so much pasteboard. At a range of over sixteen miles her guns could do serious damage, and at 3,000 yards they would pierce sixteen inches of the toughest armour known.

The storm of steel and iron which she could pour out upon an enemy is no less than five tons each minute that she is engaged. The best French battleship could only reply to this storm of metal with four tons.

Our new class of battleships is four in number: the King Edward VII., the New Zealand, the Commonwealth, and the Dominion.

"STRONG MAN OF FRANCE."

Serious Illness of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, the Ex-Premier.

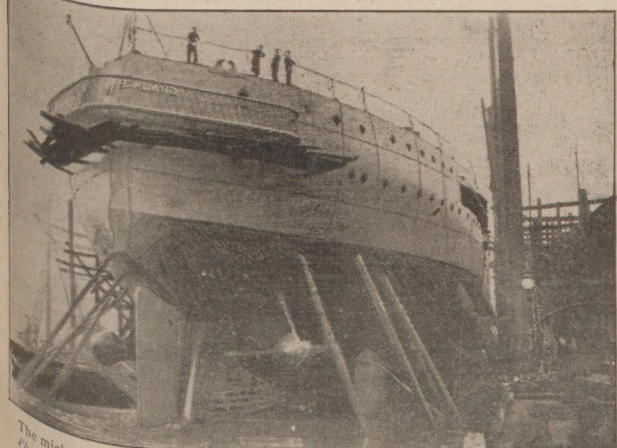
PARIS, Wednesday.

M. Waldeck-Rousseau, ex-Premier of France, is seriously ill. He has been suffering for some time from a grave affection of the liver, and the doctors fear that a surgical operation will shortly be necessary.

The ex-Premier himself is anxious for this to take place, but the medical men who are in attendance on him are afraid to operate just now owing to the state of the patient. By his express wish no bulletins are issued. The "strong man of France" is making his state even more serious by the insistence with which he gets up for an hour or two every day and receives intimates.

The doctors have already warned him that he is endangering his life by doing so, but M. Waldeck-Rousseau will not listen. "Operate then," he says, "if I am so seriously ill, and get it over—one way or another."

H.M.S. NEW ZEALAND, THE LARGEST BATTLESHIP EVER BUILT AT PORTSMOUTH, IS LAUNCHED TO-DAY.



The mighty stern of the New Zealand, as seen in the dock. She is equal in size to the King Edward VII. The Countess of Onslow launches her to-day. (Cribb.)



The New Zealand's quarter-deck and barrette shown in the picture make clear the enormous size of the battleship. (Cribb.)

"THE LOVE BIRDS."

New Musical Play by Mr. George Grossmith.

"The Love Birds," Mr. George Grossmith's new musical comedy, will be produced at the Savoy Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 13. The play is in three acts and the music composed by Mr. Raymond Roze.

Already the seats are nearly all booked, and the rehearsals are going on merrily all day. The dresses have been designed by A. Cornelli, and are well adapted to the scenes of the play, the first act of which opens in Henley and the other two in London. Two very quaint picture posters have been designed by "Nibs"—one of them being two little love birds on a bough with amorous expressions on their faces, and a black tom-cat beneath regarding them, also amorously. The other consists of a lady and gentleman in a gondola, surrounded by two cats, two dogs, and two birds, all engaged in "loving."

The cast includes Mr. Sydney Brough, Mr. Lawrence Grossmith, Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., Mr. George Fuller Golden, Miss Kate Cutler, Miss Lottie Venn, Miss Blanche Ring, and Miss Edith Nevill. The play will be produced under the direction of Mr. Will Bishop.

LIGHTS ON THE "MIRROR."

What Some People Think of This Notable Enterprise in Journalism.

"Truth" this week has this kindly expression of opinion:—"When the *Daily Mirror* first made its appearance, I could not honestly congratulate those responsible for its production. But, in the



MR. WALTER CREIGHTON.
The son of the late Bishop of London. He has gone on the stage, a somewhat unusual profession for the son of a Bishop.

new shape which the paper has now assumed as the *Illustrated Mirror*, it is a remarkable piece of journalistic enterprise which certainly deserves success. The idea of issuing a sixteen-page illustrated newspaper at one halfpenny would have staggered journalistic humanity even a quarter of a century ago; but the halfpenny illustrated paper has come, and has probably come to stop. Its advent shows what a change has come over the spirit of daily journalism in the course of a generation. The public taste in daily papers to-day seems to be entirely for something light, bright, chatty, and readable, and each new step in the newspaper world is a step in this direction. The portentously solemn and heavy journalism which suited our grandfathers is rapidly becoming extinct."

Among the numberless letters of satisfaction at the change in the character of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* came these encouraging lines from a correspondent at Stourbridge:—

With great discrimination
You've created a sensation
By your splendid publication.
Accept sincere congratulation
For so unique a compilation.

SOMETHING ROTTEN IN THE STATE.

Statistics to hand regarding the trade of Denmark show that, while the United Kingdom takes three-fifths of the Danish exports, it only enjoys about one-sixth of the imported trade of the country.

Germany, on the other hand, accepts only about



This is a picture of a Korean Shark Market, where shark fins, which are a great delicacy in this quaint country, are laid out for sale.

KUBELIK AND HIS TITLED WIFE.



This is the first photograph taken of the violinist Herr Kubelik and his wife, the Countess Czarky, after their marriage.

(Photo by Ellis & W. Allen.)

THE FAR EAST CRISIS—HOME SCENES IN KOREA.



Here is a sampan sailing on the Inland Sea. Sometimes the boat is rowed by the oar thrust out from the stern, while the boatman stands up by the side of the post shown in the picture.
Stereo Copyright, Underwood & Underwood.



Korean children under camera fire. Photographs like this are difficult to obtain, because the parents think the camera will harm their children.
Stereo Copyright, Underwood & Underwood.

one-sixth of her imports, yet has one-third of the whole trade of the country in her hands. Thus Great Britain and Germany exactly re-

verse their relative positions as regards exports and imports, to the immense advantage of the latter. Surely something could be done to place English trade on a more equitable basis.

THE WORLD OF MOTORS.

Habitues of the Crystal Palace will, within a few days, find a wonderful transformation in the huge building. To make room for the second annual motor show, from the 12th to the 24th, plants, statues, and even fountains are being removed. The stands will number about 300, which means that at least 1,000 cars will be on view, to say nothing of accessories and a perfect mob of motor cycles. Everything, from the cycle at £30 to the luxurious car at £3,000, will be represented.

The exhibits are about 25 per cent. more numerous than last year, and the countries to be represented are France, Belgium, Germany, United States, Italy, Switzerland, and Holland.

There will be a ladies' day on Tuesday, the 16th, when tea and a reception will be given by the vice-presidents in the Kings' Room.

OILED ELEPHANT.

Central Park Zoo, in New York, has a star attraction in a baby elephant named Hattie. Although only four months arrived from Ceylon, she has learnt a number of tricks, which furnish an all-round circus entertainment for the crowds, old and young, who daily visit her. The first winter is a critical time for an unaccustomed elephant, and as a substitute for the mud baths in which these animals delight in their natural state she is thoroughly oiled once a month. This treatment has given her a remarkably fine, soft hide, and will, it is considered, protect her from rheumatism and kindred pachyderm ills.

MARRIED "MISS SNOW."

Mr. Pierpont Morgan's Nephew United to a Japanese Lady.

New York, Wednesday.—A newspaper wedding notice of this morning announced the first marriage by a member of a prominent American family to a Japanese lady. Mr. George D. Morgan, nephew of Mr. J. P. Morgan, was married at Yokohama seven days ago to Miss Yuki ("Snow") Kato, of Kyoto. The bridegroom graduated from Yale University ten years ago. He is very wealthy, and is interested in Anglican Church work in Japan. The bride belongs to a good family.

"AT HOME" BEFORE HANGING.

An execution in the Western States of America seems to be more or less a social function. One John Robertson, of Kirksville, Missouri, was condemned to be hanged for the murder of his mother-in-law. As a last favour he asked to be allowed to shake hands with his friends before going to the scaffold. As he was a social lion a big crowd assembled on the morning of the execution. It was like a Presidential reception, and Robertson shook hands with no fewer than 1,200 persons. When it was all over the hero of the occasion was hanged.

A RESPITE.

The Home Secretary has notified that the death sentence has been respited in the case of Mary Ann Boyle, who was found guilty last week of the Lancaster Assize of the murder of her five-year-old son at Barrow.

SINGING TO FAME.

Remarkable Success of a New American Soprano.

Miss Elizabeth Parkina is a young American soprano with a wonderful voice, who has, in the short space of six months, sung her way right into the front rank of artists. It was only in September last that Miss Parkina, quite unknown to English audiences, appeared at a promenade concert and aroused much enthusiasm by her singing of the "Bell Song" from "Lakmé." Since then important engagements have been fulfilled by the young singer, who is engaged to appear this season at the Philharmonic Concerts and at Covent Garden in grand opera, two honours which have seldom been bestowed so soon on any singer. Miss Parkina is a native of Kansas City, and has studied in Paris with that famous teacher of



MISS PARKINA. She sang last night at the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society Concert. The King seldom fails to attend this concert.

Guglielmi—Madame Marchesi. Her voice is remarkable for its brilliance and purity of tone in the upper ranges, and is of exceptional compass. Madame Melba, it should be added, is greatly indebted to the young cantatrice, and it was owing to her kindly offices that Miss Parkina was brought to the notice of some of the most influential people in the world of music.

SAVED BY A LADY.

The presence of mind shown by Miss Woolf, a young lady living at 34, Clarendon-gardens, Maidstone, was chiefly responsible for James Deller, a Court sweeper, appearing in the dock at Marylebone yesterday, on a charge of attempting to commit suicide in the Regent's Canal. On Tuesday night Miss Woolf heard cries of "Help, help," from the canal side near Bloomfield-road, Maid Vale, and running along the tow-



MISS CLARA BUTT, the famous contralto, who was one of the singers at the Great American Orchestral Smoking Concert. Her husband, Mr. Kenneth Rumford, was singing also. The Duke of Edinburgh, who was one of the founders, used to play the violin in the orchestra. (Photo by Bacon & Son.)

both she saw Deller struggling in the water. No longer near at the time, and seeing a lifebuoy hanging up on a bridge a short distance away she ran to a greengrocer's shop close by and asked the man to get it for her. The man got the lifebuoy and a drag, and eventually the prisoner was brought up. Mr. Woolf on her action, remarking, "You did have very creditably indeed." The prisoner, asked for an explanation, said: "It was a mania. I spent my wife's wages, and

RUSSIA PREPARING FOR WAR.



This picture, specially drawn by our artist from a sketch made on the spot, shows a Cossack outpost guarding Russian interests on the Trans-Siberian Railway in Manchuria, and watching a train carrying military stores.

I thought when they were gone I might as well go too. It is my wife's tongue."

Mr. Plowden: You prefer your wife's tongue now, do you?

The wife was in court, and told the magistrate that she was by no means tired of her husband, and that they parted all right on Saturday. Mr. Plowden dismissed Deller, advising him to return to his wife, and not sacrifice himself for her again.

THE EAST LONDON APPRENTICE.

The Thames Police Court magistrate yesterday, asking for the definition of a "sweater," received considerable enlightenment from hearing an account of the treatment meted out to his apprentices by an East End manufacturing tailor. Only apprentices were employed by this man. Beginners received no salary at first, and afterwards only half-a-crown a week. First-class apprentices only earned a few shillings, as the best work was given to the unpaid girls. The hands were also charged 2½d. for a reel of cotton which could be bought for 1½d. outside.

ON THE BLACK LIST.

Although the "Black List" is no longer circulated among publicans by the police it is by no means a dead letter. This was brought home to Kate Rogers, 65, yesterday, at the Marylebone Police Court. She had several times been convicted of being drunk, and had been placed on the Black List. She was now sentenced to three months' imprisonment in default of finding sureties for her good behaviour.

FRANCE AND ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

A telegram from Paris yesterday states that the French Government will to-day officially promulgate a law whereby an extraordinary credit of 50,000 francs will be opened for the expenses of the French section of Agriculture and Horticulture at the St. Louis Exhibition.

By the invitation of Mr. Arthur Bouchier, the boys and staff of the Duke of York's School, to the number of 600, witnessed yesterday's matinee performance of "The Cricket on the Hearth."

"A COINAGE QUESTION."

A number of readers who saw the letter in Monday's issue asking whether there were many florins about with the upright figure of Britannia upon them, have written to say that such coins had been in their possession during the last few weeks.

POPE GIVES HIS PHOTOGRAPH.

Father Whitmer, Rector of the English Catholic Church of San Silvestro, Rome, celebrated his jubilee yesterday.

Among the presents he received (says Reuter) were a photograph from the Pope, with his Holiness's autograph, and a beautiful gold dessert service from Queen Margherita.



Wisham Climber, the champion collie, just purchased for a record price by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan. (Photo by J. Broaden.)

GILBERT JESSOP AND GLOSTER.

The "Croucher" Available for all County Matches.

Satisfaction is expressed in Bristol and Gloucestershire at the official announcement of Mr. G. L. Jessop will be able to play many matches for the forthcoming season. Jessop will again be offered the captaincy of the Gloucestershire team.

It is that no county match will take place from May 16 until August, when four will be played in succession, is causing disappointment.

NOTES COUNTY CLUB MEETING.

County Cricket Club yesterday held its annual meeting at Nottingham under the presidency of Mr. Alfred Budge. The meeting was held in the evening, and a great deal of business was transacted, but during the evening, and a pecuniary benefit to the club, and last season there was hardly any profit. Mr. C. H. Fry's scheme, Mr. Denison said, had been taken up by all the counties. It was a valuable, and a pecuniary benefit to the club, and last season there was hardly any profit. Mr. C. H. Fry's scheme, Mr. Denison said, had been taken up by all the counties. It was a valuable, and a pecuniary benefit to the club, and last season there was hardly any profit.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

PREPARING FOR THE BLADES. With Sheffield United next Saturday, the Blades have to fight hard to avert defeat. The Blades have to fight hard to avert defeat. The Blades have to fight hard to avert defeat. The Blades have to fight hard to avert defeat. The Blades have to fight hard to avert defeat.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY. The Oxford University team will represent London against the Dark Blues at the first round of the above competition. The Oxford University team will represent London against the Dark Blues at the first round of the above competition. The Oxford University team will represent London against the Dark Blues at the first round of the above competition.

HUGBOY FOOTBALL. The Hugboys will play the first round of the above competition. The Hugboys will play the first round of the above competition. The Hugboys will play the first round of the above competition.

HOSPITAL CUP. The Hospital Cup will be played at the first round of the above competition. The Hospital Cup will be played at the first round of the above competition. The Hospital Cup will be played at the first round of the above competition.

UNIVERSITY v. GUY'S HOSPITAL. The University will play Guy's Hospital at the first round of the above competition. The University will play Guy's Hospital at the first round of the above competition. The University will play Guy's Hospital at the first round of the above competition.

WALES v. SCOTLAND. The Welsh team will play the Scottish team at the first round of the above competition. The Welsh team will play the Scottish team at the first round of the above competition. The Welsh team will play the Scottish team at the first round of the above competition.

ENGLAND v. IRELAND. The English team will play the Irish team at the first round of the above competition. The English team will play the Irish team at the first round of the above competition. The English team will play the Irish team at the first round of the above competition.

BILLIARDS. The Billiards will be played at the first round of the above competition. The Billiards will be played at the first round of the above competition. The Billiards will be played at the first round of the above competition.

RUECE v. INMAN. The Ruece team will play the Inman team at the first round of the above competition. The Ruece team will play the Inman team at the first round of the above competition. The Ruece team will play the Inman team at the first round of the above competition.

COURING. The Couring will be played at the first round of the above competition. The Couring will be played at the first round of the above competition. The Couring will be played at the first round of the above competition.

GUY HAPPIER WITHOUT POLITICS. The Guy team will play the Happier team at the first round of the above competition. The Guy team will play the Happier team at the first round of the above competition. The Guy team will play the Happier team at the first round of the above competition.

From politics yesterday. The more the Guy team plays, the happier they are. The more the Guy team plays, the happier they are. The more the Guy team plays, the happier they are.

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AWFUL WEATHER BY LAND AND SEA.

Floods and Tidal Waves Create Great Havoc—Buildings and Sea Walls Washed Away.

"February Fillylke" is commencing with a determination to live up to the worst traditions of the month.

If the example set so far is followed by the rest of the year, even the unenviable records of last will be left behind. Floods are reported from all parts of the country, and the amount of damage done must be enormous. In London extraordinary scenes were witnessed.

The tidal wave which devastated the Scilly Islands has also caused great damage at various places on the English and French coasts.

REMARKABLE SCENES IN LONDON.

The tide in the Thames yesterday afternoon was the highest recorded since November 28, 1901, the river rising to a height of no less than 3ft. 8in. above Trinity high-water mark, representing a total rise of over 20ft.

At half-past three the river was running on a level with the Embankment and was washing the base of Cleopatra's Needle, an exceptionally unusual occurrence. Higher up, at Lambeth and Vauxhall, the river overflowed into some of the wharves, notably that of Messrs. Cooke and Co., where the water reached the street entrance doors and completely submerged several large wagons which were standing on the slope leading down to the water's edge.

Fire engines had to be used to pump out many basements, and in some places work had to be discontinued. The damage to small dwelling-houses in the bank-side districts was very great. Families had hurriedly to remove their household effects from the lower apartments and store them in the upper rooms. All kinds of articles, from washbuds to tapestries, had to be used for bailing purposes.

Owing to the remarkable quickness in the rise of the tide a great many barges and other craft broke

up. Acres of meadow land adjoining the railway between Weybridge and Walton are one sheet of water. In places carts have had to be used to carry people to and from their homes.

FIFTH FLOOD IN NINE MONTHS.

In the Upper Thames Valley the outlook is equally serious.

The present flood is the fifth within nine months. The rainfall has been steady, but not exceptionally heavy. At Marlborough rain has fallen for nine consecutive days, but the total fall during that period only measures 2.35 inches.

Since Saturday the river has been rising about six inches each day, and the valley has been transformed into a vast lake. Thousands of acres are submerged, riverside lawns and gardens have disappeared from view, and several roads at Marlborough, Bourne End, and Cookham are now under water.

The flood is certain to be the most disastrous experienced since June last, whilst another day's rain would probably cause the extraordinary June level to be exceeded.

BOATING OVER GOLF LINKS.

Last night the river at Windsor Bridge was nearly 4ft. above head-water mark, and was rising rapidly.

From the height of Windsor Castle the country resembles a series of lakes. Windsor embankment, erected after the great 1894 flood, is keeping the water out of the royal borough and sending it over to the Eton side.

A large tract of land is under water at the back of Eton High-street, and the royal grounds opposite Datchet are flooded. Many think the river will rise above the 1894 record, and a tremendous quantity is expected from the upper reaches in the next twenty-four hours. The racecourse is in

flooded, and traffic is almost impossible. The flood water stretches for miles, and has the appearance of a miniature inland sea, such a sight not having been witnessed near Hastings for at least fifty years.

Brighton Sea Railway Damaged.

An abnormally high tide swept away some fifty yards of the electric railway running along the sea front at Brighton yesterday morning, the force of the waves twisting the rails like wire. The cars were running at the time, but fortunately no accident occurred. Another portion of the cliff at Blackrock, East Brighton, has given way, imperilling the safety of some of the houses there.

Great damage was done at Dunbar, near the entrance to the Firth of Forth, by the unusually high seas. A large building close to the sea, known as St. Anne's Court, was wrecked, and most of the debris carried away. The sea has made serious encroachments upon the public thoroughfares.

A tidal wave swept over the whole coast of Penmarch, in the department of Finistère, France, causing immense damage. A third of the commune of Penmarch was under water yesterday. Many fishing boats were wrecked and sunk, several persons being drowned. The coast dwellers have abandoned their houses with their families and their cattle, and desolation reigns supreme.

BENJAMIN PICKARD DEAD.

House of Commons Loses a Member with a Picturesque Career.

Mr. Benjamin Pickard, M.P., died at his London residence last evening from heart disease. The sad news, when it became known in the House,

THE FLOODS SEEN FROM WINDSOR CASTLE



From the top of the Round Tower of Windsor Castle it was difficult yesterday to trace the lines of the Thames. The river has spread out into a vast area of flood water.

from their moorings and drifted with the stream. The Thames police had an exciting time, and several collisions occurred.

The exceptional height of the tide was largely due to the enormous quantity of land water coming down from the upper Thames Valley. The tide of November 28, 1901, reached the height of 2ft.

THAMES VALLEY FLOODED.

The Thames Valley is flooded in many places, and the river yesterday was almost as high as last June, when so much damage was done. Many of the riverside houses are invaded by flood water.

A representative of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* yesterday visited Kingston and some of the surrounding districts. The borough surveyor took things quite calmly. "People," he said, "who live on the riverside take things philosophically. After excessive rains the river rises and cellars and lower parts of the houses get flooded. But people are more or less prepared, and just wait until the water goes down again."

"Without the improvements which have been made during the last couple of years at Teddington Lock it would be a much more serious matter."

The Thames below Kingston Bridge is sullen and angry. Its banks have disappeared, the tow-path is gone, the towers on the Middlesex bank are most of them submerged, and the islands lower down are several feet under water.

By the Albany Club the river has widened out like a lake.

At Hampton Wick the allotment grounds of the cottagers are under water. A quarter's rent has been remitted to tenants for the damage done. Damage-work is still continued, but is difficult and dangerous, for the river is coming down like a torrent, swirling and eddying through the bridges at some ten miles an hour.

At Teddington lock and every paddle and sluice gate has been drawn for many days past. Some high railings which surround a draw-dock close by were only just visible above the water.

In Bushey Park the Queen's River has overflowed and spread in a great lake across the avenue. The river at Hampton Court Bridge has risen four feet, and for the sixth time within twelve months the gardens adjoining the "Mitre" are under water.

But it is the little Mole which has done the most

undated, and many roads in the district are under water.

People are boating over the golf links at Datchet. A considerable expanse of land is under water near Stamford. The river Welland has overflowed for many miles, roads have been rendered impassable, and the water has penetrated many houses.

In the Kennet Valley thousands of acres are submerged, and much damage has been done.

Hundreds of acres in the Deane Valley, Yorkshire, are submerged, and some highways at Bolton are covered with 3ft. of water.

WAVE MOUNTAINS HIGH.

The tidal wave which caused so much damage at Scilly seems to have had some connection with an earthquake. Shocks were felt in parts of the island of Jersey, which has suffered severely.

Several tons of stone were washed by the sea on to the railway, completely stopping the traffic.

The old port of Portsmouth was badly flooded yesterday afternoon by the abnormally high water resultant from the tidal wave. Trams were stopped, the floating-bridge service suspended, and the cellars of the houses and business premises badly flooded.

At Hayling Island the tide was the highest known for twenty years, and made great inroads on the beach.

Sea Wall Carried Away.

A huge gap was made yesterday in the sea defence works at St. Leonards. The heavy waves caused a breach in the wall, extending for a length of over two hundred feet. At White Rock the sea broke on the promenade with a noise like thunder, and the spray rose to the top of the highest hotel, washing the whole of the front line of houses.

The greatest force of the storm was felt further westward, great blocks of cement being wrenched from their places and tossed on to the beach like straw.

As the tide receded, gangs of men were put to work to patch up the breaches, hundreds of faggots being used for the purpose of saving the sea walls from further damage on the return of the tide.

In the low-lying lands about Pevensy and the Rother Valley the whole of the marshes are

occasioned general expressions of regret, the deceased being a very popular figure.

Mr. Pickard, who since 1885 had represented the Norman Division of Yorkshire in the Liberal interest, was a somewhat striking personality, whose efforts on behalf of the miners of Great Britain are too well-known to need detailing. The son of a miner, he commenced work in the pit at twelve years of age, and never lost an opportunity of improving his education. Hence it came about that at a comparatively early age he was called upon to fill important offices in miners' organizations. Convinced of the need of legislation for the betterment of the miner, he set his heart on the work, with a result that must have been very gratifying to him. He was the organizer of no fewer than six International Congresses of the miners of Great Britain, Germany, Austria, France, and Belgium, and for some time took a part in the work of the Peace Society.

At the last election Mr. Pickard was returned by a majority of 1,410.

THE ROYAL WEDDING.

The burgesses of Windsor will present to Princess Alice of Albany a beautiful half-hoop diamond bracelet.

Sir Robert Collins says that no arrangements have yet been made for the public exhibition of the presents.

The nave of St. George's Chapel will be lined by the 7th Queen's Own Hussars (Prince Alexander's Regiment), at Canterbury. The Household Regiments at Windsor will be the only other troops on duty for the wedding. The King and Queen, and the King and Queen of Württemberg, and the members of the Royal Family will leave the Castle for St. George's Chapel at 12.15 p.m.

TOURIST'S HIDDEN HOARD.

A Swiss recently bought an overcoat at the sale of unclaimed property of the Swiss railway company held at Montreux. While examining his purchase the Swiss came across a 425 Bank of England note which was hidden under the lining. A London house made the coat, which was most probably lost by an English visitor.

A PAGE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WOMEN.



White Cloth Hat, trimmed with a spotted blue scarf and pompons.

NOTES ON THE MODES.

THE REVIVAL OF THE SLEEVELESS BOLERO.

This is a departure quite unexpected, but one notwithstanding that we shall be disposed to accept with all due appreciation as a means towards the desirable end of effecting change and change only. Although when we come to reflect on the wave of 1899 and 1840 vogue now passing over us, the counterpart occurring again and again, in the plates covering the above-mentioned mode. Any way, it is a recruit to be encouraged, finding a pleasing presentment in the advertisement picture, where its story is told in ecru velvet round with black. A line of black ribbon is carried round all the edges above a row of black silk spots.

HELPFUL HINTS.

HOW TO PRESERVE A PRETTY COMPLEXION.

There are many disputes as to the advisability of washing the face with water immediately on rising from open-air exercise. A perfect skin needs with very little care. But it is the delicate and sensitive cuticle that suffers from exposure, and water and soap will often act as an irritant to the skin, and bring a rash to the face. A piece of linen cloth, dipped in almond oil or cold cream, and further rubbed with boric acid and water, will cleanse the face marvellously, and no injury to the skin will result. One of the secrets of preserving the complexion is to avoid any ill consequences that might ensue is that of thoroughly drying the skin, whether water or the above compound be used, and friction by the

"DAILY ILLUSTRATED MIRROR" PAPER PATTERN DEPARTMENT.

Our numbered designs on this page can be obtained from the Paper Pattern Department, "Daily Illustrated Mirror," 2, Carmelite House, Carmelite Street, London, E.C. All applications to include the number and the price of the pattern or patterns. The patterns will be sent in the case of adults, in the medium size only, and will always be stated. All amounts of 6d., or upwards, should be sent by means of postal order. Foreign stamps cannot be accepted in payment for patterns. In every case ordered patterns are dispatched at the earliest possible moment.

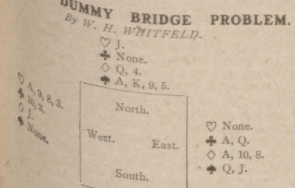
BRIDGE DAY BY DAY.

By ERNEST BERGHOLT.

This seven-card problem by Mr. Whitfeld, which was published on the 26th of last month, appears to be a very lively interest among our readers. This is evidenced by the large amount of correspondence we have received on the subject, and we repeat the position for reference.

DOUBLE DUMMY BRIDGE PROBLEM.

By W. H. WHITFELD.



Spades are trumps. South has the lead. NS are to win against any possible defence. The redemptive (?) letter of Mr. H. Duncan, proving to the writer's own satisfaction, that the task

palm of the hand or by the rubber rollers so much used now should always follow the drying of the face by the towel.

There are many women whose skins become absolutely like parchment through constant exercise in the open air. It is these who will find great benefit by applying every night a balsam consisting of one ounce each of white wax and spermaceti, eight ounces of almond oil, two ounces of glycerine, and one quarter of a drachm of otto of roses. This is an emollient and simple preparation, and prevents dryness of the skin. It will not suit every complexion on account of the glycerine contained in it, but there are many women with whom it is a favourite preparation, and who use it both as a cleanser and an emollient.

A SCHOOLROOM NOVEL.

HOW A LITTLE FRENCH GIRL KEPT HOUSE FOR HER FATHER.

Many mothers will be glad to hear of a French story suitable for girls and boys in the schoolroom, one that is gracefully written, interesting in theme,



A Bolero, made of ecru-coloured cloth applique with gingerbread brown cloth, and edged with black velvet. It is worn with a dark brown dress.

and thoroughly healthy. Such a story is "L'Apprentissage de Valérie," by Mlle. J. N. Mermin, the author of several other books, including "Camille et Marcel," "Le Pensionnaire de Mme. Pascal," and "L'Experience de Claude."

Valérie's apprenticeship is in housekeeping, and takes place during her mother's absence from home through ill-health. The girl of some sixteen summers, whose interests have hitherto been devoted to literature and music rather than to domestic

affairs, takes up her task with a light heart, but, as a result of her inexperience and a combination of unlucky happenings, her burden becomes very heavy. The father falls ill of influenza, the brother sprains his ankle, the housekeeping allowance is insufficient to meet Valérie's inexperience and grand ideas, and the difficulties that ensue have to be overcome somehow.

How these troubles are solved by the devotion of the brother and sister and the servants, without worrying the mother in the least, and only transiently the father, the narrative discloses, and upon the return of the mother once more in excellent health to her home, the story ends happily for all. Grown-up readers will find in "L'Apprentissage de Valérie" a very pleasant theme, but it is primarily an excellent novel for young people.

A WRAP THAT NEVER FAILS.

The service or military coat is an ideal one for children. This is a pattern that is put to many uses, and finds expression in an endless variety of materials. But it is doubtful whether under any condition the virtues of this model have ever found a greater appreciation than when applied to children.

The school coat service serge or frieze in navy blue, with red or self-coloured facings, has no equal, since it can be worn open or closed right up to the throat with equal impunity. Mothers

quantity of wide double width material required for that size is 2½ yards, with half a yard for facings. Flat pattern, 61d.; tacked up, including flat, 1s. 31d.

THE DAILY TIME-SAVER.

DISH OF THE DAY.

ECLAIRES REGIME. By M. MOISY, Chef of Kensington Palace Mansions Restaurant.

Choux paste.—Put half a pint of water, a pinch of salt, and two ounces of butter into a stewpan; when boiling stir in four ounces of flour, work it with a wooden spoon over the fire till the paste will leave the bottom and sides of the pan clean. Remove it from the fire, and gradually work in three eggs. Then put in a forcing-bag, with a plain tube, and force out even-sized shapes, similar to finger-biscuits, on to a lightly-buttered baking tin. Bake a nice golden colour in a moderate oven. When done split the side with a sharp knife, and fill each with a nice seasoned mousse de Homard. Recipe for mousse de Homard.—Remove the meat from a cooked lobster, and put it in a mortar, with three boned anchovies; pound until smooth; add the yolks of two hard-boiled eggs, one dessertspoonful of chutney, season to taste, and rub through a sieve, and mix half a pint of whipped cream with it.

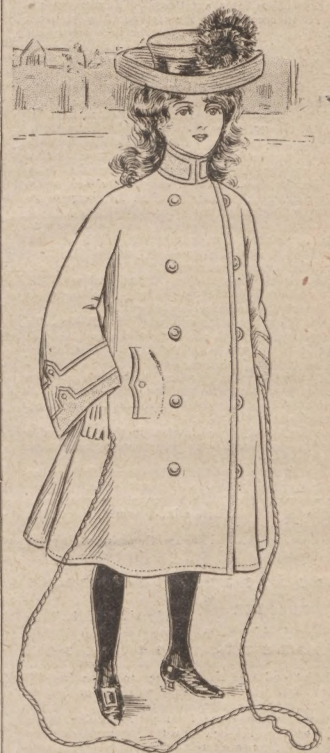
SIMPLE DISHES.

No. 24.—BAKED SMELTS.

INGREDIENTS:—A dozen smelts, two teaspoonfuls of chopped parsley, half a pint of good white sauce, browned crumbs, two ounces of butter.

Choose nice large fish; they should be very stiff and of a bright, silvery appearance. Well butter a fire-proof dish, shake the parsley over the butter, then lay in the fish, having washed and dried them. Pour the sauce all over it, then sprinkle the top thickly with the browned crumbs. Put a few tiny bits of butter here and there on the crumbs, and bake in a moderate oven about fifteen minutes.

Cost 2s. for six portions.



No 24.—Smart Service Coat for a little girl.

set could not be accomplished, will be fresh in the minds of our readers. We have also been favoured with the usual crop of dogmatic criticisms from persons who are obviously much enamoured of their own judgment. One writes: "This problem is altogether unworthy of the author of coupon 13. It is plainly solved by the lead of a small Diamond, won by East with the ace. I see no merit in it." On the other hand, we have a postcard which says: "The attack of North and South can easily be defeated by East's holding up the ace of Diamonds. As we are told 'against any possible defence,' the problem is therefore a bad one."

Mark, now, how plain a tale shall set these critics down. The play is as follows:—

Trick.	South.	West.	North.	East.
1.	♠ 7	♠ 3	♠ 5	♠ Q
2.	♠ K	♠ J	♠ Q	♠ 8
3.	♠ K	♠ 10	♠ 9	♠ A
4.	♠ 3	♠ 3	♠ A	♠ J
5.	♠ 9	♠ 8	♠ K	♠ Q
6.	♠ 4	♠ A	♠ J	♠ 10
7.	♠ 10	♠ 9	♠ 4	♠ A

Result: N S, 6 tricks; E W, 1 trick.

COMMENTS.

Trick 2—If East wins the queen, South has tenace in diamonds over him, and North has a small diamond to lead. The rest is plain sailing.

We have pleasure in giving honourable mention to the following, who have sent perfectly correct solutions:—

F. W. Lord, E. I. Mack, Mervyn F. Voules, G. E. D. B., James Torrens ("The best Bridge problem of its kind I have ever seen"), John Watkins ("Very interesting"), E. D. Fitz-Gerald, Mrs. C. Tracey, G. M. Simond, Col. W. Lockyer, Hubert F. Lowe, W. J. G. Patton, Mrs. R. Hely-Hutchinson, J. V. Edmonds, Miss S. Warner, W. M. F. Mellor, C. B. Keston, A. W. D. Campbell ("A fine problem"), Den ("Very pretty and an agreeable change from those depending on forced discards"), Capt. T. G. Matheson, Mrs. E. W. Selby, Spencer Cox ("A beautiful problem"), Somali, H. S. Muir, Mrs. Welsh, S. W. B., E. Turner, Mrs. Graham, Mildred Reid, H. V., W. I. Godwin, Capt. L. Oldfield, Wobs, Mrs. A. R. Becker, A. Stuart, Amgo, Col. Skinner, E. G. Shamer, O. G. W. C. Fenton, Miss K. Gordon, W. B. Ormond, J. L. Peach, Margaret A. Wallis, J. R. Scott, J. H. Williams, Dr. George Fletcher ("The best I have seen for a long time"), C. R. Broad, Whistful Novice, Dr. M. G. Moulton, R. Hoffmann, Miss Gregory, Mrs. Arundel, R. J. Thomas, Dr. Arthur C. Motta, Miss Evelyn Hill, S. W. F., H. S. Brabant, Mrs. A. H. Brown, The Robber Kitten ("It took me a long time to discover"), Miss Wenna Martyn, H. H. R. ("Most interesting"), P. M. Castello, Gertrude Alder, H. P. S. Devitt, H. E. Chappel, C. A. C. Davis, Mrs. A. E. Cumming, C. Stanhope, W. N. Roe, Miss E. M. Fenwick, Dr. P. E. Evans, M. H. Nathan, C. L. Reade, H. Houston Ball ("When are you going to give us another Tournament?"), Capt. H. M. Nuthall, A. Heather, C. Michael, Major E. C. Massie, T. Geoghegan, Alec Drew, F. B. Ayler, H. Airey, C. W. Duncan, A. C. Hobson, J. Brown (University Club, Dublin; "In twelve minutes").

"At love all," writes "Pontifex," "holding: ♠ A, 9, 7; ♥ Q, J, 5; ♦ K, Q, 6; ♣ 10, 8, 7, 3; 1

declared No-Trumps. My partner having a very strong hand, I won Little Slam.

"ARGUMENT WAXED HOT."

"I was told that my declaration was utterly unjustifiable. My contention was that though the hand was a very weak 'borderline' no-trumper, it was worth a risk on the chance of Dummy's holding a long suit, which I could most probably bring in. What is your opinion?"

As our readers may have gathered from some of our judgments on Declarations, we should leave it on the above hand, not considering it quite strong enough for *sans-atout*. Mr. John Doe, in his "Bridge Manual," takes a different view. Elsewhere, we have examined the subject at adequate length, and have given full reasons for what we believe to be the correct course.

"The amount of entertainment and instruction," writes Col. B. Lowlesly, "conferred on the community by your Bridge Competitions has been very great. [The italics are not our own.]

"If you were now to give us another one, consisting of six difficult Double-Dummy problems by yourself and Mr. Whitfeld, I think all the best Bridge players would be very glad to compete; and your recent examples have certainly opened the eyes and educated a good many players who had ability, but were in blissful ignorance on many points in the game."

THE BONE OF CONTENTION.

GLIMPSES OF MANCHURIA, THE PROVINCE FOR WHICH RUSSIA MAY FIGHT.

THE REAL SIBERIA. By John Foster Fraser.
London: Cassell and Co., Ltd.
This pleasantly-written book is not, and does not pretend to be, a work of authority. It is only a series of reminiscences of a hasty trip through Siberia to the Pacific in 1901. But especially at the present moment, when all eyes are on the East, the volume is eminently readable. Mr. Fraser is a man who keeps his eyes open, has a journalistic instinct of finding interesting material, and conveys his impressions in a natural and sprightly manner. He finds a great deal to admire in the Russian

a town. Till twenty years ago it was little more than a Cossack outpost. Now it has a population of forty thousand.
Here, in the heart of Siberia, are newspapers, banks, factories, a public library with ten thousand volumes, a hospital, and a museum.
Here is a glimpse of the railway station at the important town of Khabarovsk, on the junction of the Amur and Ussuri Rivers. On one side is Siberia proper, on the other Manchuria.
"The scene," says Mr. Fraser, "was one that had a close comparison to that you see in India. Instead, however, of British officers walking up and down with a confident stride of superiority, while the Hindus and Mohammedans gave way, acknowledging superiority, there were Russian officers, clean and smart, promening the platform, while the slithering, cowering Chinese and the cringing, frightened Koreans made room for them. Here the Russian is the white civilised Westerner, whose stride is that of a conqueror. The Mongolians, who once scoured the world, now bustle and make an avenue to let pass a young lieutenant with gold epaulettes on his shoulder."
Here is a specimen of how the Chinese are treated. On one train there was not room for

MR. JOHN FOSTER FRASER.



The author of "The Real Siberia," never had an ordinary education: he just ran some in a library for some years. He travelled in 1901 by train, boat and sledge through Siberia, and dashed across Manchuria, which was then closed to foreigners. The book now re-published is the one he wrote describing his adventures.

country, and his general conclusion is that Siberia is a vast, almost unjust reputation. The country is, according to him, by no means the earthly hell the Russian novelist has generally represented it, nor even a land of ice and snow. This is quite true, but Mr. Fraser, as a journalist, naturally sees the higher-class Russian people, the more competent witness as to the real state of the picture.

The New York of Siberia.
Interesting as are the chapters regarding the country, it is naturally in the Far Eastern provinces that we have at present most interest. Siberia is a pure wilderness, to read Mr. Fraser's description of some of the chief towns. Of the cities between four and five thousand homes, the Chinese were driven to death in the Amur valley, and a regiment of Cossacks, the author speaks of.

The Siberian town I had yet come to know. It is proud of its position, and has a right to be. But again and again I was struck by the likeness to an American town. It is a town at right angles. The houses are of wood, and are great three-storied public buildings, with a row of shops on the street to look at if you are in Moscow or St. Petersburg. The streets are fringed with wooden sidewalks, and the houses are festooned with wires for electric telegraph, and telephone. The shops are packed, selling everything from cigarettes to

the latest fashions. It is old-fashioned in Blagovestchensk, but abandoned for a bustling Siberian city. A point that can move, is the proper thing. The town are keen cyclists, and whizz along on their track. It is what the Americans call 'quite

all the second and first class passengers, and some officers had to invade the third-class. The third-class coaches were already heaving with Chinese. From one of these carriages the Chinamen and their belongings were ignominiously ejected. They went like cattle, and as many as possible scrambled into an open goods van. Others attempted to struggle in, but were driven back.

"Are you going to put on another wagon for them?" I enquired.
"Oh no, they are only Chinamen, and they'll have to wait for to-morrow's train," was the reply.

"The night was bitterly, bitterly cold. We were comfortable enough with double windows and hot-air pipes. But those shivering Chinamen!"
Mr. Fraser found "vigorous, energetic life" at Vladivostok, and here he beheld the first Russian he had ever seen in a hurry. The carriages tear along the streets as if they were in a chariot race, and as there is no rule of the road "you are on the brink of a newspaper paragraph whenever you go out."

A Manchurian "Boom" Town.
Extremely interesting is Mr. Fraser's account of a trip into Manchuria, on the ill-laid, jolting, make-shift railway, on which travelling is never faster than five or six miles an hour, with occasional stops of seventeen hours or so. The country swarms with pheasants, and one of the party brought ten for two shillings.

This is a description of Harbin, the great junction on the Manchurian Railway.
"Seven years ago there was not a single Russian in Harbin. Now there are nearly nine thousand. It is for all the world like an American 'boom' town. Big stores and hotels are being pushed up, and everywhere building is to be seen. Fortunes are made by men who have patches of land centrally situated."

"Harbin is a magnet to all the adventurers in Russia. There are two or three murders every week."

"There is a café chantant at Harbin. The night before I came an engineer arrived, his pockets bulging with roubles, and he showed his idea of money by making all the girls sit in a row while he poured champagne on 100-rouble notes and then stuck these notes (£10) on the foreheads of each of the eight girls. That is the Harbin idea of having a good time."
These little extracts will give an idea of what the "temporary occupation" of Manchuria (which is still technically Chinese) really means.

THE COUNTRY WIFE.

A POWERFUL STORY OF VICE, DRUNKENNESS, MURDER, AND THE COTTAGE HOME.

A MAGDALEN'S HUSBAND. By Vincent Brown. (Duckworth, 6s.)

One of the finest, strongest, most elemental and sincere novels that have been published this long time past in England, and by a new writer, is "A Magdalen's Husband," by Vincent Brown. Its title rather belies the theme. It suggests the West End, while, as a matter of fact, the whole of the book is devoted to the annals of a country village, where the heroine works out her expiations for sins which are discreetly not detailed, and of which, as in the case of Duse's "Camille," one must confess it is sometimes rather difficult to imagine her guilty.

Moreover, the author spends himself not nearly so much in analysing the mind and heart of Joan Hurt as he does in his really profound study of his two chief male characters—Martin, her husband, and Zeckel Draicot, her faithful friend and protector, both gardeners.

So far as Joan herself is concerned we hear only that she was brought up in the village, and that she had, in homely rural phrase, "bad luck with her young man" (a drunken scoundrel, Jim Anscumb), and had run away to London. She afterwards came back to live among her old friends in a "quiet, humble, repentant way." But the village still looked askance upon her, even when Martin made her an honest woman by marrying her.

A Cottar's Saturday Night.

It is of this married life and of its utter abjectness that Mr. Vincent Brown has first to speak, and, above all, of the attitude of the husband, which constitutes a quite absorbing psychological study in itself.

Martin was a rough, brutal, drunken fellow, and the first of any to throw Joan's old life in her face. But, with the endurance born of despair, Joan continues meek, affectionate, industrious, irreplicable. Her debt to him is ever before her eyes.

Here, for instance, is the kind of scene that happened nightly. Martin had been out all the evening with another girl named Sally, and after a visit to the public-house has brought in a drunken crotch of his named Roger Coo to supper at about midnight.

Supper of bread and cheese was daintily laid out on the table, and under the knife was a note in pencil: "Your cocoa is in the oven, dear." Martin snatched up the bit of paper and crushed it in his hand as though it were a thing of immense resisting force.

"That Sally Calmer is a devil," he said, under his breath. "Joan!" he called.

"I am here, Martin," she replied from the bedroom, the door of which was ajar.

"I want something better than bread and cheese. Where's that pudding?"

"I put it away," Joan answered.

"Then I wish you'd come and warm it up." He waited awhile; then in a louder voice: "Did you hear what I said?"

"Yes, I am getting up."

Martin's gaze was fixed on the inner door. "She doesn't light the candle!"

"She'll not want us," Roger whispered, "to see in while she's dressing."

"Pshaw! A lot she'd care for that!" The bedroom door was pushed to from within.

When Joan came out she nodded and smiled. "I didn't know you intended to bring any one home, Martin, or I would have stayed up. But you are quite welcome, Roger."

"Of course he is; I made him come!"

She said nothing, but quietly, yet with a trembling in her hands, put a piece of sweet pudding in a pot of water and placed it on the fire. Then she took a can of syrup from the cupboard and sat down at the table.

After this one appreciates the author's statement that "the marvel was that the seven evil spirits which had been cast out of Joan Hurt had not been driven back into her by Martin."

Still, one can understand also the author's yet more observant contention that Martin was not wholly to blame. His very brutality was based upon a dim recognition that this despised woman,



MR. VINCENT BROWN.

The author of the exceptionally fine novel, "A Magdalen's Husband," reviewed on this page. It is a realistic story, yet with a message of sympathy and hope.

tabooed by everyone, and lying under so great an obligation to himself, was in reality a good deal better than he was. He was puzzled and exasperated.

It was not solely hatred, nor jealousy, nor revenge; but a more subtle feeling. The only fairly lucid part of it to himself was that their neighbours and friends did not see Joan as he saw her. And he got as far as the fringe of another subtlety—that he was being unjustly blamed and condemned for failing to understand his wife.

How Martin insulted in a thousand other ways also the woman whom, at base, he loved passionately, and who had in reality given him not the smallest reason for a harsh word; how these insults grew and grew, until finally he turned her out of doors in a fit of frenzy; how he repented in agony; how her faithful champion, Zeckel Draicot, murdered Martin that night; how Zeckel was hanged; and how Joan prayed for his soul—for all this we must refer our readers to Mr. Vincent Brown's engrossing pages.

"A Magdalen's Husband" is, one may add, a story that ends, not happily, after the conventional manner, but in real exaltation. However realistically it tells of wretched lives such as are led, one knows, in some of the sweetest spots of rural England, its message is one of sympathy and of hope.

"TWO PENNY TUBE-ITIS," THE NEW ARM DISEASE.



Physicians, it is asserted, have discovered that because Londoners suspend themselves from straps in tube railways and omnibuses they are gradually growing lop-sided.

